

Emergency Preparedness in Nevada

Healthcare-Associated Infections:
Translating Knowledge into Practice
Conference

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1:30PM-2:30PM
The Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel



What is Public Health Preparedness?



It is the responsibility of Public Health to be capable of meeting the needs of any public health emergency within their community

Types of Public Health Emergencies

- Natural or accidental disaster such as earthquake or chemical spill
- Infectious disease outbreak such as influenza or measles
- Bioterrorist event such as anthrax or smallpox



What is Bioterrorism?

"The overt or covert dispensing of disease pathogens as biological weapons for the expressed purpose of causing harm"

Examples of CDC's Category A:

1. Anthrax
2. Botulism
3. Plague
4. Smallpox
5. Tularemia
6. Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp>



What does PHP do?

- Develop plans to address identified hazards and vulnerabilities
- Conduct drills and exercises to evaluate and refine plans and assure response readiness
- Communicate with local media to make sure the public receives appropriate information & recommendations
- Provide education & training to local doctors, nurses, public health professionals and Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers



What does PHP do?

- Set up PODS (Points of Distribution) to provide vaccines or medications to a large number of non-ill people *if needed* during a public health emergency
- Develop and implement local Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteer team to respond
- Conduct surveillance so that we can identify when a disease outbreak occurs in our area



What is Surge Capacity?

*** Sarin Attack video from Tokyo ***

The ability of healthcare and/or public health institutions to absorb a sudden increase in demand for service

- Naturally occurring outbreaks of disease (e.g. Pandemic Influenza)
- Human caused outbreaks (a.k.a. Bioterrorism)





What is a POD?

Point of Dispensing

- A central location where dispensing of medication or vaccinations can take place on a large scale to prevent or slow the spread of a disease epidemic



What can PODs do?

- Federal Government provides 'product'
 - ✓ Vaccine
 - ✓ Preventive medicines
- Goal
 - ✓ 100% of the population
 - ✓ Within 48 hours of receiving the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Distribution
 - ✓ Walk through
 - ✓ Drive through
 - ✓ Closed/Private
 - ✓ Open/Public



Rotary Family Flu Shot Day

Full-Scale
Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise
Saturday, October 24th, 2008



WCHD Numbers for This Event

1. Staffed by approximately 225 people
2. Staff from 42 different organizations
3. 85% to 90% of staff were volunteers
4. Staff performed more than 60 different functions
5. Staff served for over 6 hours
6. Safely vaccinated over 2,500 people
7. Vaccinated these people in 3.5 hours



What is MRC?



Medical Reserve Corps

- Created to increase hospital and clinic surge capacity and staff PODs and alternate care sites in the event of a public health emergency
- Volunteer team made up of licensed medical and support personnel
 - ✓ Physicians
 - ✓ Nurses
 - ✓ EMTs
 - ✓ Pharmacists
 - ✓ Logistics and support specialists

Are you starting to see a linkage?
Surge Capacity Support!



How Does WCDHD Know?

CDC Definition:

The term "syndromic surveillance" applies to surveillance using health-related data that precede diagnosis and signal a sufficient probability of a case or an outbreak to warrant further public health response.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/epp/dphsi/syndromic.htm>





Thank you!

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